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JULY 14, 15, 16 & 17



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PLEASE NOTE

Due to the large crowds and safety concerns, we request that you leave your pets at home. Service animals only permitted in festival areas. Please enjoy your food & drinks on the street and do not bring your refreshments into retail shops.

Bring your sunscreen, hats, lawn chairs & dancing shoes!



THE OPENER

Thursday, July 14 ° 4 PM to 10 PM

Peace Park

- ✓ Free Bike Valet 4:30 – 9:30 PM
- ✓ Beer + Wine Garden in the Park
- ✓ Farmers' Market
- ✓ Supper Market
- ✓ July Black Concert in the Bandshell..... 7 – 9 PM

COUNTRY NIGHT

Friday, July 15 ° 4 PM to 11 PM

Pelham Street

- ✓ Free Shuttle Bus 3:30 – MIDNIGHT
- ✓ Christine Filipowich 4 PM
- ✓ Free Bike Valet 4:30 – 8:30 PM
- ✓ Live Music on the Main Stage
- Hosted by Stephanie Mizzi from Country 89
- Johnny & June Cash 4 PM
- Wendy Lynn Snider 6 PM
- Elton Lammie 9 PM

Line Dancing

- ✓ Christine Filipowich 8 PM
- ✓ Beer + Wine Under the Arches
- ✓ Outdoor Patios + Food and Retail Vendors

Peace Park

- ✓ Revive the Rose 7 – 9 PM
- ✓ Teen Movie Night in the Park 9 – 10:30 PM

BREAKFAST

IN THE PARK

Sunday, July 17 ° 9 AM to 4 PM

Peace Park

- ✓ Free Shuttle Bus 9 AM – 4:30 PM
- ✓ Free Bike Valet 9 AM – 4 PM
- ✓ Pancake Breakfast for \$5..... 9 AM – 12 NOON
- ✓ Kids Zone
- ✓ Retail & Craft Vendors start at 9 AM including: Avon Canada; Believe Me Marketing; Fashion Trendz; Folk Arte; Full Throttle Woodworking; Happy Bees; Leather Treaty; Mama Mombosa; Niagara Face Painting; Road to Happy; Scentys; Sweetlegs; The Bee & Me
- ✓ Food Vendors Start at 12 noon including: Alfies Lemonade; Country Corner Market; Frostee the Cone Man; Rose City Pizza
- ✓ Live Music at Bandshell:
 - Max Hillier Band..... 10 AM – 12 NOON
 - Rod Nickson..... 12 NOON – 2 PM
 - Steve Burnside..... 2 PM – 4 PM
- ✓ Family Walk
 - Registration at the white sail..... 9:15 AM
 - Family Fun Walk starts..... 10:00 AM
 - From Bandshell to Bandshell – Explore the History of Downtown Fonthill
- ✓ *NEW Car Show 10 AM – 4 PM
- ✓ Check out the classic cars and hot rods!
- ✓ Beer + Wine Garden in the Park 11 AM – 4 PM



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PelhamNEWS

Isis beautifies the community



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Isis Body Sugaring and Esthetics owner Brigitte Boucher makes a heart with her hands outside her salon in Fonthill. For her story see Page 5.



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SU probes leave cops, victims waiting

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

It has been 270 days since Niagara Regional Police constables Neal Ridley and Jake Braun were shot during an altercation with a man at a Fenwick apartment building — but there is no word when Ontario's civilian police watchdog will complete its probe of the incident.

The Special Investigations Unit, or SIU, is Ontario's civilian oversight agency responsible for investigating circumstances involving police that result in death or serious injury.

Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire wouldn't comment on the specifics of the shooting in Fenwick or the NRP's investigation last week.

When the SIU invokes its mandate, the NRP and its officers are prohibited from releasing information or commenting on the investigation.

McGuire did, however, say the pace of SIU investigations can be frustrating for his officers and the public.

"We aren't fearful of civilian oversight," he said. "We certainly support it, but it has to be fair for everybody."

"It's not fair to the cops who have it hanging over their head, in some instances for a year at a time. It's not fair to the victims involved or a prisoner who is injured during an arrest."

"Arrests aren't always pretty. It's not like television where you say, 'Sir, would you please get into the car.' It doesn't always work that way, but we have an obligation to make sure the person doesn't get away."

McGuire, who has just finished a stint as president of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, said the chiefs have been in contact with the SIU about the pace of investigations.

"We have written to the SIU; we have written to the ministry," McGuire said. "I have personally met with the director of the SIU Tony Loparco. The SIU says there are a lot of systemic things that slow them down. They also believe a lot of it is workload."

"I won't comment on whether they need more investigators. That would be for director Loparco to answer. If that is the problem, we encourage the province to provide the resources."

SIU spokesman Jason Gennaro said a variety of factors influence the unit's timing and closure of cases, including the sheer volume of investigations across the province as well as their complexity.

Nobody is suggesting the SIU isn't busy. Last Tuesday alone, as this story was being written, two press releases arrived from the SIU.

The first announced the agency was investigating police in Toronto after a 39-year-old man was struck by a conducted energy weapon and seriously injured.

The second announced the results of an investigation in Guelph on July 15, 2015, which found police used a reasonable amount of force in arresting a naked man who was rummaging through a parked van and wouldn't respond to questions.

After being detained under the Mental Health Act and handcuffed, the man started kicking at the officers. He ended up with a broken nose. Locally, the SIU wrapped up an investigation in Port Colborne recently after a 37-year-old man suffered facial injuries during an "interaction" with officers from the Ontario Provincial Police and the NRP on July 25, 2015, nearly a year ago.

At about 2:25 a.m., officers were called to the area of Moe's Tap & Wings at 190 Main St. E. because of a disturbance. The man ended up being taken to the St. Catharines hospital for treatment.

Loparco said, "There are no reasonable grounds to charge the subject officer with a criminal offence," and ended the probe.

Among the incidents currently under investigation in Niagara is a confrontation between a 21-year-old man and NRP officers on March 7, 2015, more than a year ago.

At around 1:30 a.m., a uniformed female officer was driving in the Market Square parking lot in downtown St. Catharines when she pulled up to a 21-year-old man who was on foot, the SIU said.

The officer left her cruiser and became involved in an interaction with the man. Other officers arrived. There was an altercation, and the man was arrested.



BORISNYCZCZYK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK/EFP PHOTO

Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire.

The man was later taken to hospital for treatment of an injury.

A lawyer identified the man as 21-year-old Nick Zaidenko of St. Catharines. Zaidenko ended up in intensive care and was charged with assault and resisting arrest, his lawyer said.

The Crown has dropped the charges in the fall.

In the Fenwick shooting, police officers responded to an address on Canboro Road at about 8 p.m. and were confronted by a man. The man and two police officers suffered gunshot wounds and were taken to hospital.

Six investigators and three forensic investigators were initially assigned to the case.

The man was identified by neighbours as 29-year-old Corey Richardson. He was shot as well, Gennaro confirmed.

A police source said it was unlikely any charges would be laid until the SIU investigation is complete.

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ONGOING NIAGARA SIU INVESTIGATIONS

- Confrontation between a teenager and NRP at the Pen Centre on St. Patrick's Day 2016. The 15-year-old Denis Morris High School student suffered a concussion as well as scrapes and bruises.
- Altercation between a 21-year-old man and NRP officers on March 7, 2015 at 1:30 a.m. A uniformed female officer was driving in the Market Square parking lot in downtown St. Catharines when she stopped a 21-year-old man on foot. The officer exited her cruiser and became involved in an interaction with the man. Other officers arrived. There was an altercation, and the man was arrested. The man was later taken to hospital for treatment of an injury.
- Shootout between police officers and a man in an apartment building on Canboro Road in Pelham Oct. 10, 2015. The man and two police officers suffered gunshot wounds and were taken to hospital.
- The death of a 93-year-old man after his body was pulled from the Welland Recreational Canal on April 1, 2015. Just before 8 p.m. on March 31, NRP officers received a 911 call about a man at the canal. Officers responded and engaged with the individual. Sometime before noon on April 1, the man's body was found in the water near Welland's Merritt Park amphitheatre.

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Climate change denial fueled by politics



GRANT
LAPLECHE

Regular readers of this column will know I am a science nerd.

Science remains our single-best method of understanding the universe, for discovering where our little mudball of a planet fits into the grander cosmos and for finding solutions that vex an increasingly complex world.

Science is particularly useful when faced with sprawling issues that extend beyond our local or even national borders. Poisoning due to leaded gasoline, diseases caused by smoking, and the spread of virulent diseases like measles or polio and a host of others issues were solved by science.

In many of these cases, there was public, political and commercial resistance to acting on what science

was showing us. The more recent - and dare I say, irrational - objections to vaccines aside, in every case public education played a key role in overcoming that resistance.

As a result, policies were enacted that improved and even saved lives.

One of the conceptions of science needs - one shared by many actual scientists and philosophers - is that when faced with resistance noted in ignorance or unwarranted skepticism, more education is the solution.

You see this approach in action today when dealing with climate change denial.

Climate change is real. It's happening, and human activity is a major force driving it.

Despite the robust science, many people refuse to accept the reality of climate change and this resistance is the greatest hurdle to taking meaningful action.

Research released by Brock University last Wednesday, titled Barriers to Climate Change Skepticism and Uncertainty in Canada, suggests pouring resources into public edu-

cation might not be the answer this time.

Biology researcher Gary Pickering recently conducted surveys to learn why some people are so skeptical about climate change. Going into the research, he assumed there would be a direct correlation between low education levels and climate change denial.

But there wasn't.

"Surprisingly, what we found was that your political leanings and values

had more to do with climate change skepticism than education," Pickering said. "Many of the people who showed the highest levels of climate change skepticism were educated. We are not just talking primary and secondary education, but also tertiary education as well."

These people showed a grasp of what climate science says. But they reject it, Pickering says, on political instead of scientific grounds.

Pickering found those who identified as political conservatives and those who live in western Canada, particularly in oil-producing provinces, were more likely to show high levels of climate change skepticism. Men were also more likely to reject climate science than women.

There are a couple of interesting points to consider here.

Continued on next page

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Leveraging and accelerating GO Rail

MAYOR DAVE AUGUSTYN

Following months of anticipation, the provincial government's June 28th announcement to expand GO train service into Niagara created much excitement. Now that we've had a couple of weeks to reflect, how can we make this opportunity even better?

Significant works

While some have bemoaned the 2021 (Grimsby) and 2023 (St. Catharines and Niagara Falls) timetable, others realize that Metrolinx (the provincial corporation that runs GO Transit) must undertake extensive work to extend GO Rail to Niagara.

Since CN owns the track upon which GO Rail to Niagara will travel, improvements must "occur in coordination with CN along their corridor, ensuring no impacts to CN and Amtrak rail services."

These works include adding 21 kilometres of track in Niagara and 12 new track cross-overs (switches); improving and modifying 17 road crossings; upgrading signals and rail traffic control system and constructing a train layover facility in Niagara Falls.

The province continues to negotiate an agreement with CN to undertake this work.

* When an agreement with CN is reached, Metro-

linx will undertake planning and design work required to implement the service." (*Tribune*, 29 June 2016, p.1.)

Transfer service

During our pre-announcement technical briefing, the chief operating officer of Metrolinx told Niagara mayors and regional chair that the "track to Confederation is fundamental to Niagara's expansion."

Why? Because, similar to as we outlined in our 2015 business case, Niagara's service will be a "transfer service" to the Lakeshore West rail service via the Confederation station.

Funding in place

Importantly, Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca confirmed that all internal approvals "are in place, including financial approvals, to deliver GO train service to Niagara." He also stated that the "Station work is not time critical" and some of the station upgrades in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines will begin in 2017. But, can we GO faster?

Some people have asked how we might accelerate GO service to Niagara. It's a good question, because the Minister indicated that "If, as a result of this important process, work can progress faster, it will."

Obviously, because this will be a transfer service, the "opening of the Stoney Creek GO station in 2019 will impact the plan for Niagara."



Ontario Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca was joined by St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley at the St. Catharines train station to announce the expansion of GO train service into Niagara.

But, much depends on the negotiations and planning with CN and roll-out of the plans. Since these factors are not in Niagara's direct control, I believe the worst thing we could do is "rest on our laurels."

Instead, I believe Niagara Region should take the opportunity to get involved in discussions with CN and Metrolinx to try to advance the timetable. Let's take a "We are here to help and want to partner with you," approach.

And, while we must keep pushing for GO Rail, I believe this announcement encourages us to continue to concentrate on developing a regional transit service.

Let's get an integrated transit service finalized by the end

of 2017 and show the Province we are serious about public transportation in Niagara.

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

Ideology can trump scientific evidence

From previous page

As Canadians, we often like to look south of the 49th and scoff at the general ignorance of our gun-toting neighbours and their increasingly divisive and incendiary politics.

In the United States, you're more likely to reject climate science if you are a Republican and, conversely, more likely to

accept if you identify as a Democrat.

What Pickering has found is the right-left political divide on climate change is largely the same in Canada.

Ideology can trump scientific evidence, which in turn can stifle simple actions people can take in their everyday lives, such as recycling, Pickering said.

Soon to be published research conducted by Pickering has found that political stigma has a particularly powerful impact on people.

"This is a simple example, but if you live in a community that doesn't think recycling is important, you may not recycle," he said. "People are saying that social embarrassment is a par-

ticular concern when it comes to what action they will take."

How to mitigate climate change and how best to adapt our lives to its reality is perhaps the single greatest political challenge of our times.

Unfortunately, the public debate is not about how to manage the crisis, but whether it exists at all.

I would say we are a bit like Nero on his fiddle, blithely watching the city burn. But it's worse than that. Many of us are not convinced the flames are real.

In a perfect world, a calm assessment of the facts is all that would be needed. Pickering's research, however, suggests more resources should be

directed to change the political zeitgeist, rather than relying on presenting the facts about climate change.

Playing political games is ineffective and wastes time in dealing with a situation in urgent need of action. But it's still better than doing nothing.

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LOCAL NEWS

Isis salon stands out in Fonthill

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Isis has been operating in Fonthill for about three years now, but don't worry it's a local business that specializes in body sugaring and esthetics.

The Egyptian name was chosen by owner Brigitte Boucher because of the history of sugar paste, which was first made in Egypt at about 300 BC. Isis was an

Egyptian goddess and patroness of nature and magic. She was worshipped for being the perfect mother and wife.

Boucher said Isis was the "It lady," so the name really suits what Isis is doing.

"I thought you know I need a name, an Egyptian name, I even thought of 'Brigitte's Sugaring,' but that's not the same. I wanted something different, something Egyptian, unique that would suit my services."

Boucher first opened Isis in London, Ont. in 2003, and about three years ago relocated the business to Fonthill.

Boucher said she was disappointed when people started questioning whether the business was part of the Islamic State. So she decided to place a sign in the window which reads "We are not affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq Syria (etc)."

"People think I'm affiliated, I guess you would say, with the Islamic State and it's unfortunate because it's an acronym," she said. "Isis is her name, it's not an abbreviation."

Boucher said she did receive calls from people

wanting to know what they were doing. With a laugh Boucher said customers were joking she should tell people there's a recruitment camp in the basement.

"No, no, I don't want to stir it all up, but none of that going on."

Boucher said the only thing going on at Isis is esthetics.

At Isis Boucher uses the same manufacturing methods as the Egyptians once did using natural pure ingredients. She has been making natural products for about 10 years.

At first Boucher thought about changing the name due to the negative attention. Ultimately she decided to

keep it because of positive feedback from customers.

"I'm leaving it now, now it's staying."

She said people who knew her in London will drive by, see the storefront and stop in to say hello.

With business booming Boucher is adding another unit with two more treatment rooms and a double pedicure station. Boucher said she will hire more employees soon and will offer body

sugaring classes.

"That's coming up probably in the fall because people can't let their hair grow in the summer, it's too hard," she said with a laugh.

Construction on the new section will start Oct. 1 and Boucher hopes it will be completed by Christmas. She said it might not be totally complete, but it will be functional.

MAllenberg@postmedia.com



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Isis Body Sugaring and Esthetics owner Brigitte Boucher highlights local artist Meghan Mulcair in her Fonthill salon with an Egyptian mural.

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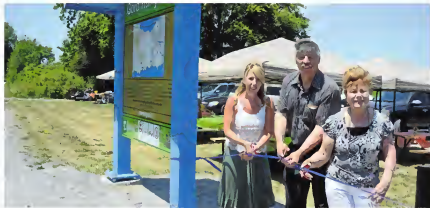
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From left, Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs, NPCA chairman Bruce Timms and Angie Harry cut the ribbon at the trail dedication for the late former mayor Gord Harry Wednesday in Wainfleet.

Trail honours late mayor

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Former Wainfleet mayor Gord Harry was honoured last Wednesday afternoon with the dedication of the Wainfleet Rail Trail in his memory.

The trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail system which stretches across the country from coast to coast. The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) began work on the trail in 2007.

Bruce Timms, chairman of the NPCA, said staff have worked to gradually improve the trail, including adding a sign and benches.

"The recognition panel there really highlights the contribution Gord Harry made to establishing the trail," Timms said.

Harry worked for the NPCA for 35 years, from 1964 until he retired in 1999. Later he became a member of the board of directors and was elected as chairman of the board. He served as chairman from 2002 until 2006.

Harry was an alderman in Wainfleet from 1989 until 2000. He served as mayor from 2000 until 2006. Harry died in February 2007 after being diagnosed with cancer.

Continued on page 14

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

A young raccoon found itself in a predicament on Canada Day as it got its head stuck in a sewer grate near Chippawa Park in Welland. Watch the rescue video online.

Crews rescue baby raccoon

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

A young raccoon is safe and sound, thanks to the teamwork of animal control officers with the Welland and District Humane Society, the Welland fire department and city crews.

Officer John Hoadley said a call came in around 3 p.m. on Canada Day about a raccoon that had gotten its head stuck in a sewer grate near Chippawa Park.

Last Thursday, the humane society shared a video of the rescue on its Facebook page.

"We thought this was going to be quick," Hoadley said of their reaction when they arrived on scene.

Instead, what they thought would be a quick rescue turned into a 90-minute venture.

The video shows the raccoon with its head stuck in one of the grid holes of a large, square sewer grate. It was struggling to get itself unstuck and hanging on with its paws to avoid hanging just by its neck.

Hoadley said rescuing animals from grates is a common thing for them, especially ducklings that are small enough to fall through.

But retrieving a raccoon was a lot more difficult than they anticipated.

He and fellow officer Ryan Hurman tried to pull the grate loose with rope and chains, but couldn't get it to budge.

They called on the fire department to help, and tried a number of other ways to pry it loose.

"None of that was working," he said.

"And of course, it started pouring rain."

He said they diverted the water away from the frightened raccoon's face as they continued their efforts.

A city worker was called in to help. Hoadley said they were considering calling in a tow truck company as well to yank the grate loose when the city worker finally got it to budge.

“

Basically, just call (your) local humane society. We would strongly discourage the general public from trying to rescue them themselves.”

John Greer, executive director of the Welland SPCA.

The video shows the worker smashing the ground with a large hammer, jostling the grate enough so it could be pulled free.

The next step was to get the little guy free.

They pushed his head through the hole.

"He was in there really, really good," Hoadley said.

His guess is the raccoon climbed up and poked its head through the hole, but couldn't pull it back out because of the scruff and skin around its neck.

Continued on page 9

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Raccoon rescue

from page 8

He said the raccoon is lucky it was so young, otherwise it might have broken its neck.

A trip to see a local wildlife rehabilitator determined that while its neck was a little raw from rubbing against the grate, the animal was otherwise unharmed.

The raccoon was released

near the outskirts of town, near the SPCA shared the video as well as others like it, to show what kind of work they do to help animals.

As for anyone else who sees an animal in distress, here's what they can do to help. "Basically, just call (your) local humane society," said John Greer, executive direc-

tor of the Welland SPCA.

"We would strongly discourage the general public from trying to rescue them themselves."

Headley said every animal and situation is different and in the end they're still wild creatures.

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are very pleased to announce **RAND MESHKI** has joined the firm and will be engaged in all aspects of the practice of personal injury law.

A nearly lifelong resident of Fonthill and graduate of E. L. Crossley Secondary School, Rand Meshki is excited to have returned to the area to legally assist injured people and their families residing in the Niagara Region and surrounding areas. While completing her law degree at the University of Windsor, Rand worked as a caseworker at the Community Legal Aid Clinic and volunteered at the Essex County Division Program through Probono Students of Canada.



RAND MESHKI

Prior to law school, Rand graduated from Western University in 2009 with an Honours Bachelor of Science Degree specializing in Kinesiology. In 2011, Rand earned a Master of Arts degree in Applied Health Science at Brock University. Throughout the course of her graduate studies, Rand's research in Sport Ethics was presented at scholarly conferences and was supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) through the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, also earning her the Dean of Graduate Excellence Scholarship.

Rand's background in Kinesiology enables her to understand her client's injuries and the rehabilitation process.

Outside of the office, Rand enjoys traveling, playing the piano, as well as a variety of sports, including tennis, volleyball, soccer, hiking and yoga.

Rand was called to the Ontario Bar in 2015 and is a dedicated and effective advocate for her clients.

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Canal workers memorial costs rising by \$100,000

GRANT LAFLECHE
Postmedia Network

It will cost nearly \$100,000 more than projected to erect a memorial to the men who died building the Welland Canal, but the group behind the project is confident it can fundraise every last cent.

Originally estimated to cost \$750,000 to design, build and install the memorial to the 137 men who lost their lives during the canal's construction, the memorial is now projected to cost \$841,000 to complete.

Rebecca Cann, cultural services supervisor for the City of St. Catharines, said the rise is due to inflation and additional features added to the project, including turning the memorial site into a park.

The memorial has been designed by architect Derek Revington and it will be installed just north of the St. Catharines Museum at Lock

3 of the canal.

The memorial will feature a large, black steel monolith with a quote from the then-federal minister of railways and canals Robert James Manion.

"Peace has its heroes as well as war, and in a construction job of this magnitude, with its daily risk and hazard, the sacrifice of human life seems to be unavoidable," Manion said at the opening of the canal in 1932.

"In due course we shall see that the names of these workmen are suitably preserved and made an enduring portion of the great structure that rises not only as a monument to their effort and their lives, but to the efforts of the thousands of working men and engineering helpers whose unremitting toil, often in the face of difficulty and discouragement, made possible the triumph of the present hour."

The site will feature two smaller black monoliths

engraved with the names of the workers who died building the canal from 1918 to 1932, along with those killed dredging the canal from 1932 to 1936.

In August 2015 when the design was unveiled by the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force, the cost just to build the memorial structures was pegged at \$450,000.

A report presented to St. Catharines city council Monday night said that cost has risen to \$479,000. Landscaping the area to turn it into a park is estimated to cost \$340,000. Other items, including fundraising, printing of materials and the unveiling, are projected to cost \$21,000.

Other enhancements, including interpretive plaques along the canal in Thorold, Port Colborne and Welland are under consideration by the task force, along with accent lighting

for the memorial, a website and a book. The cost of these enhancements are not included in the report.

At Monday's council meeting, the task force's fundraising chair, Greg Wight, said \$631,327 has been raised for the project, including contributions from the federal government.

Cann said the task force is confident it can raise the remaining money for the memorial.

She said the city used capital funding to get the project underway. The 2015 capital budget included \$60,000 for the memorial, and the 2016 capital budget includes \$715,000 in additional cash flow.

"That money will be paid back to the city through fundraising," said Cann.

She said the project is still on schedule to be completed by August 2017. Installation cannot begin until the land is released by St. Lawrence

Seaway Management Corp., which is currently using it as part of ongoing construction work in the area.

glafeche@postmedia.ca



JULIE JOGAS/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Artist renderings give an idea what the completed Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial will look like. Derek Revington speaks to a small crowd about plans for the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial at an open house at the St. Catharines Museum Monday. Revington, of Derek Revington Studio Inc., discussed his design and answered questions about the memorial that will be built by 2017. Fundraising efforts are underway, with a goal of \$450,000. A donation website — www.stcatharines.ca/canalworkersmemorial — will be ready soon. Donors can also drop in to the museum or city hall.

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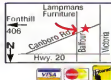


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Trio faces forcible confinement charges

Postmedia Network

Three men face a slew of charges following standoff in Thorold last Friday in which police say two St. Catharines males were held against their will.

The trio, all with Brampton ties, are in custody after brief court appearances last Saturday and the adjournment of their bail hearings.

The standoff began just before 7 a.m. last Friday when Niagara Regional Police responded to a 911 call from a house in Confederation Heights. The caller reported that two people had been brought to the residence at 86 Crysler Cres. and held against their will by three men, one allegedly armed with a handgun.

Patrol officers isolated the house and contained the perimeter to ensure public safety, police said in a release last Saturday. Crysler Crescent and portions of Confederation Avenue and Summers Drive were closed to traffic.

Police said the two victims came out of the residence and were taken to safety by officers at the perimeter of the home.

Additional police were brought to the scene, including the emergency task unit, canine unit, negotiators, detective services and the forensic science unit.

During the standoff, police said, one of the suspects tried to run away through neighbouring yards and was taken into custody shortly after 10 a.m. by tactical officers.

The two remaining suspects came out of the house about an hour later and were arrested.

Det.-Sgt. Paul Koscinski said the male victims from St. Catharines were about the same age as the accused. They had minor injuries and didn't have to be treated.

While all three men arrested are from Brampton, one is a student who was staying in the Crysler Crescent home.

Police are remaining tight-lipped about the relationship between the



JULIE JOSIAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Police take a person into custody on Buss Court in Thorold. Police arrested three people in Thorold following a standoff at a house on Crysler Crescent Friday morning.

accused and victims or what precipitated the incident in the first place.

"A lot of it forms evidence of the case and will be released through the trial proper," Koscinski said.

Detectives searched the house until 8 p.m. with the assistance of Canada Border Services Agency and its firearms sniffing dog. Police said they found cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and cash believed to be proceeds of crime, counterfeit money and a prohibited weapon. No firearms were located.

Sicetus Akhinagba, 18, of Thorold and Brampton, Isaiah Woods, 19, and Michael Khan, 19, both of Brampton were arrested.

All three were charged with forcible confinement, robbery with a firearm, possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking and possession of a prohibited weapon.

Akhinagba faces additional charges from the incident of pointing a firearm, possession of methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking, possession of cannabis, possession of proceeds of crime under \$5,000 and possession of counterfeit money. He was also charged with five counts of failing to comply with a recognizance.

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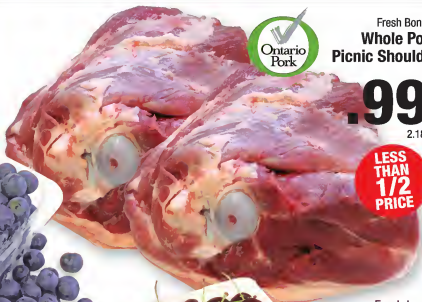
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Wells of Hope banking on fundraiser

GRANT LAFLECHE
Postmedia Network

Sometimes, the worst outcomes just cannot be predicted.

The Niagara-based Wells of Hope charity — which provides clean drinking water to the residents of the Jalapa mountains in Guatemala — was doing well with its annual fundraising efforts.

But the often chaotic politics of the country has taken a big bite out of its wallet.

Scott Maxwell from Wells of Hope said political turmoil in Guatemala resulted in the shutdown of the country's shipping ports.

"The trouble was we had several shipping containers full of supplies," he said.

Stuck on the docks were containers filled with drilling equipment, firefighting gear for Guatemalan fire departments donated by the St. Catharines fire department, and school supplies for the children of Jalapa donated by Niagara students.

There was no way to get them out until the ports reopened, Maxwell said.

Wells of Hope does most of its work in Jalapa during

the spring, with personnel and volunteers returning to Canada in the summer. But Wells of Hope founder Ted van der Zalm had to stay in Jalapa an extra month to await the release of the containers.

"In the meantime, we had to pay thousands of dollars in storage fees on top of what we usually pay for shipping," Maxwell said. "It's tremendously inconvenient, but we had no choice but to pay it."

Maxwell said the annual golf tournament Wells of Hope runs did well this year, raising more than \$30,000. However, much of that money was used to manage the situation on the ground in Guatemala.

The result, Maxwell said, is that Wells of Hope is strapped for cash even as it plans for its 2017 operations in the impoverished mountain region.

Maxwell is hoping the annual Passion fundraising event on Friday, July 22, at Mori Gardens in Lake will help make up the difference.

The event will feature wine tastings from several Niagara wineries including Inniskillin Wines, Jackson-

Triggs Niagara Estate Winery, and Pondview Estate Winery. There will also be live entertainment and food from local chefs.

For more information on the event and tickets visit <http://niagarapassion.com>.

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In the meantime, we had to pay thousands of dollars in storage fees on top of what we usually pay for shipping. It's tremendously inconvenient, but we had no choice but to pay it."

Scott Maxwell from Wells of Hope

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Toddler recovering after lawn mower accident

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

More than 80 people attended a fundraiser last Sunday to help a Pelham toddler who suffered a tragic lawn mower accident.

Long Beach Country Club in Wainfleet hosted a golf tournament with the help of Jim Senchoway and his wife Kelly. The money raised will go to the Seehagel family to assist three-year-old Jed Seehagel's recovery.

Jed's aunt Heidi Seehagel, 26, attended the fundraiser on behalf of her brother and sister-in-law. She said they couldn't attend because they are busy taking care of the boy.

Heidi said Jed is doing "really good" and has moved to a rehabilitation centre in Toronto.

Money raised Sunday will help with rehabilitation costs and accommodation. Heidi said the family has had to stay in Toronto while Jed recovers.

Heidi said Jed lost his leg in the accident and will need a prosthetic. Rehabilitation will prepare him for when he starts using the artificial limb.

Heidi said the accident hasn't affected Jed too much and he's still a happy boy.

"He's a little boy that still likes bugs, trucks and helicopters," she said.

On the night of May 19, Seehagel's father was cutting the lawn at his farmhouse when the accident happened. The 32-year-old father thought Jed was in the house, but he had in fact made his way outside and was following his father around the property.

Unaware his son was close behind him, he reversed the riding mower coming into contact with Jed.

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MICHELLE ALLENBERG, POSTMEDIA NETWORK

From left Kelly Senchoway, Tiana Senchoway, Jim Senchoway, and Heidi Seehagel, at a golf fundraiser event at Long Beach Country Club for Heidi's nephew Jed Seehagel.

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Handle with Care

Distressed man apprehended after St. Paul shutdown

POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A police investigation resulted in one man being apprehended following a nearly four-hour shutdown of St. Paul Street Monday.

The main road in downtown St. Catharines was blocked between Carlisle Street and Garden Park after emergency services responded at 6:10 a.m. to

reports of a man threatening to hurt himself at the Carlisle Hotel. Police became aware of a concerning Facebook post by a 24-year-old St. Catharines man that made reference to self-harming behaviour. Niagara Regional Police said in a press release.

Officers moved to a fourth-floor apartment to check on the man's welfare, but he refused to open the door or exit the unit.

He then barricaded the door. The NRP's team of crisis negotiators, emergency task unit, canine unit and tactical support group were called in to assist, in addition to St. Catharines firefighters and Niagara Emergency Medical Services.

The fire department had a ladder extended to a fourth-floor window of the building.

Crisis negotiators spoke with the man for some time until

officers became concerned for his welfare and forced the door open. At about 9:45 a.m., the man was apprehended under the Mental Health Act.

He was uninjured, but was taken to local hospital for further evaluation.

Police said the man was the subject of an unrelated investigation that remains ongoing.

The roadway was reopened shortly before 10 a.m.



BOB FIMCZESZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Police and emergency services deal with a male who barricaded himself in a fourth floor room of Carlisle Square, formerly the Leonard Hotel.

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